

CHFS Adoption Services

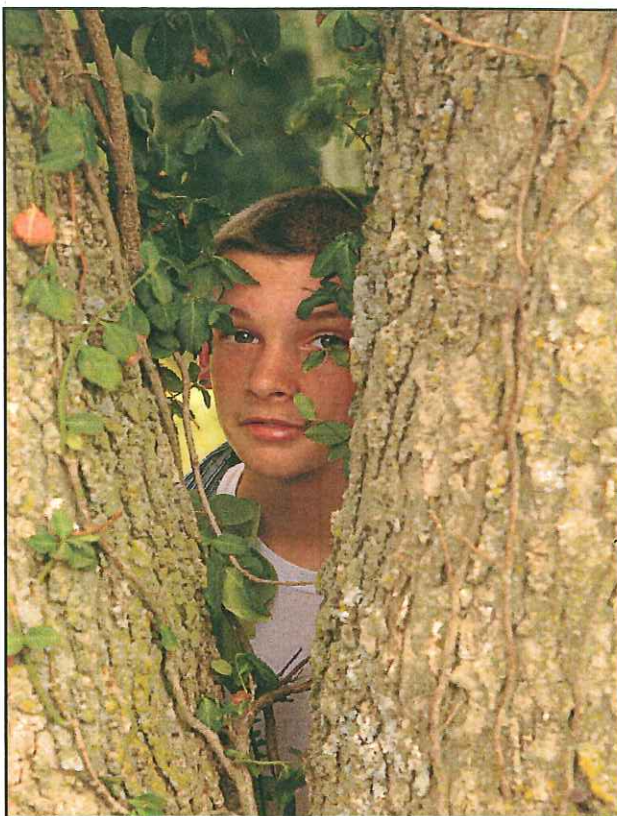
DCBS is the primary adoption agency in Kentucky. DCBS places hundreds of children and youth for adoption each year.

Most of these children were removed from their birth parents by court order for a variety of reasons. A majority of them have emotional scars from a background that includes abuse or abandonment.

These children have been maltreated and exploited. Parental rights were terminated because the parents were unable or unwilling to provide proper care for their children.

The children are considered "special needs" because they are older, have brothers and sisters that need to be placed with them or they have moderate to severe emotional, physical/medical or mental disabilities. These are the children least likely to be served in an adoption program. From a parenting perspective, your primary task is to teach the child to trust adults.

In accordance with Kentucky statute, DCBS is involved in every state adoption. In placements made by licensed private agencies and independent placements, the department receives and processes copies of the adoption application and/or petition and forwards the confidential adoption reports to the courts. The department is legally mandated to investigate all adoption cases.



**Kentucky Cabinet for Health
and Family Services**

**Department for Community
Based Services**

Adoptions Services Branch

275 E. Main St., 3C-E

Frankfort, KY 40621

Web site: <https://apps.chfs.ky.gov/snap/>

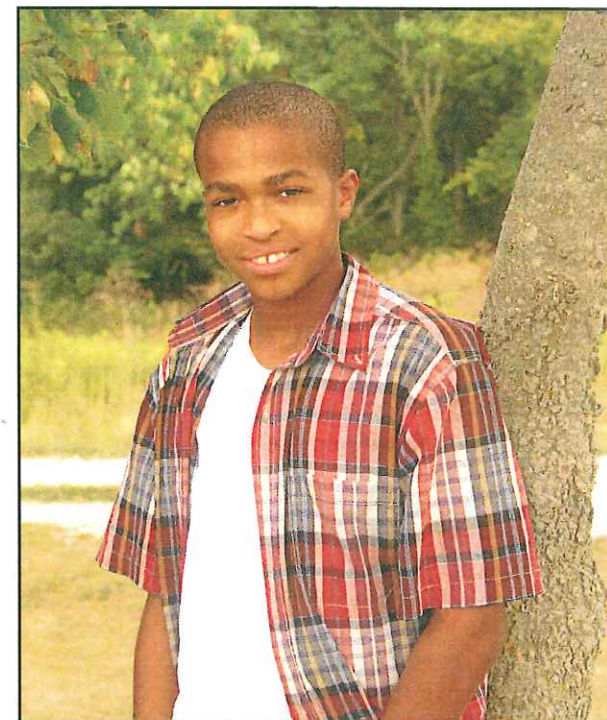
Phone: (800) 928-4303 or (800) 432-9346



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Kentucky Special Needs Adoption Program



**Kentucky Cabinet for Health
and Family Services**

**Department for
Community Based Services**



chfs.ky.gov

What is SNAP?

SNAP is the Special Needs Adoption Program in the Adoptions Branch of the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), which is the primary adoption agency in Kentucky.

SNAP began in 1979 in response to the increasing number of children who were spending too long in foster care without a permanent adoptive home.

SNAP children are legally free for adoption AND do not have an identified adoptive family. These children have been removed from their birth parents by a court order. Parental rights have been terminated because the parents could not provide appropriate care for the children.

SNAP works together with the recruitment and certification teams ("R&C" workers), located within Kentucky's nine service regions. They help interested families who are recruited and trained in preparation to adopt and/or foster children who have no permanent home.



Family Resources

Many resources are available to assist families in adopting and parenting these children. Some of the services are as follows:

- **Medicaid** (Medical cards)
- **Monthly subsidy** – funds used to meet the special needs of the child
- **Nonrecurring adoption expenses** – \$1,000 per child to pay for attorney fees and court costs
- **Extraordinary medical expenses** – reimbursements for services/equipment not covered by the medical card
- **Adoption tax credit**
- **Tuition waiver** – tuition for any public college/university is waived for any special needs child adopted from DCBS.
- **Educational Training Voucher (ETV)** – available for children who were adopted from DCBS when they were 16 years of age or older. The maximum amount is \$5,000 per student per year. Allowable expenses include books, rent, day care, transportation, utilities and food.
- **Out-of-state travel expenses** - DCBS may reimburse travel expenses for out-of state families (who cannot pay) to attend a preplacement conference or visit a Kentucky child.
- **Post Adoptive Placement Stabilization Services (PAPSS)** – allows adoptive parents to place their child in a residential facility for short-term (i.e. 90-days) crisis stabilization without relinquishing custody.

Web Site Photo Listing

All of the SNAP children who are available for adoption are photo listed on the SNAP Web site at <https://apps.chfs.ky.gov/snap>.

These children are legally free for adoption, and do not have an identified adoptive family. The children identified in sibling groups must be adopted together and not individually.

For agency information or for information in regard to the listed children, please call SNAP at (800) 928-4303 or (800) 432-9346. Or e-mail the SNAP specialist listed under the child's name.

Please have available the children's ID numbers, which are listed under their photos, and complete the inquiry interest form.



**Thank you for considering
Kentucky's waiting children.**

How can I become a member of the network team?

The process to become a member of the Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network is relatively simple. To begin with you must have an interest in helping resource families, working in partnership with other foster / adoptive parents and DCBS staff, and be in good standing with the Cabinet for Families and Children. All applicants for the network shall:

- ♥ have a minimum of three years experience as a foster or adoptive parent
- ♥ complete an application with references
- ♥ have a current criminal background and child abuse registry check
- ♥ complete an interview
- ♥ sign a confidentiality statement

1-877-70HEART



Printed with state funds

KY Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network
Murray State University
400 N. Applied Science Building
Murray, KY 42071-3345

Kentucky Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network



Teaching others through the sharing of knowledge, skills, attitudes and life experience to better serve and support Kentucky's families and children

A Program of the Cabinet for Families and Children, Kentucky Foster / Adoptive Care Association and the Murray State University Training Resource Center

Kentucky Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network

*"Living with my children
is the best and the worst
all rolled into one day."*

This quote from a foster parent echoes how many parents have felt about their experiences with their children on a day-to-day basis. Each day is typically filled with wonder, love, challenges and frustration. Hopefully, the love and wonder outweigh the challenges and frustration. No matter what happens on any particular day, it is helpful to know there is another foster / adoptive parent you can contact.



What is the KY Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network?

The KY Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network is a partnership effort between parents and the Cabinet for Families and Children to address the unique local and regional training, recruitment and retention needs of Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) foster / adoptive parents. To accomplish this, regional teams provide training in both group and one-on-one peer support settings. Activities of the network teams include (but are not limited to):

- ♥ confidential, peer crisis support
- ♥ recruitment of new foster / adoptive parents
- ♥ advocate for parents and children
- ♥ training and education
- ♥ develop and support regional respite programs
- ♥ training with R&C staff on policies and procedures
- ♥ and much, much more ...

Who benefits from the KY Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network?

Everyone! The network is available for any DCBS foster parent, DCBS adoptive parents, anyone interested in becoming a DCBS foster / adoptive parent, or just has general questions about foster care or adoption.

Who can I contact to learn more about the network in my region?

Call the statewide coordinator,
toll free at

1-877-70HEART

Or call locally

**KY Foster & Adoptive Parent
Training Support Network**
Murray State University
Training Resource Center
400 N. Applied Science Bldg.
Murray, KY 42071-3345



A consortium of parent-led adoptive parent support groups throughout the state

What ASK Offers Families

- Support groups for adoptive parents
- Mentoring support
- Information on policies and procedures
- Educational/Training Programs
- Advocacy assistance
- Lending Library
- Statewide resource information
- Referrals to Resources

Contact Information
Carrie Saunders, MSW
 Director

1 Quality Street Suite 700
 Lexington, KY 40507
 (877)440-6376

[http://www.uky.edu/Social Work/trc/](http://www.uky.edu/SocialWork/trc/)



Provides moment-in-time training and support for newly approves resource parents via mentoring relationships with veteran parents.

What the Mentor Program offers Families

- Help new resource parents apply skills learned in training.
- Make weekly contact during the first six months mentoring period.
- Provide emotional encouragements and a confidential ear.

Contact Information
Jeff Damron, BS Seth Kruisch, BA Tamikia Dumas, MS
 Directors

1 Quality Street Suite 700
 Lexington, KY 40507
 (866)257-9837

[http://www.uky.edu/Social Work/trc/](http://www.uky.edu/SocialWork/trc/)



Dedicated to the empowerment of foster and adoptive families through the use of training and professional development opportunities.

What the Resource Parent Program Offers Families

- Curricular development of Out-of-Home care
- Tuition assistance for foster parents.
- Networking of child welfare resources.
- Speakers bureau

Contact Information
George Humlong
 Director

1 Quality Street
 Suite 700
 Lexington, KY 40507
 (877)440-6376

[http://www.uky.edu/Social Work/trc/](http://www.uky.edu/SocialWork/trc/)



A partnership between the CHFS and parents to address the unique local and regional training, recruitment, and retention needs of the DCBS.

What the KY Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network Offers Families

- Confidential, peer crisis support.
- Advocate for parents and children.
- Develop support regional respite programs
- Training with R&C staff on policies and procedures

Contact Information
Crystal Palmissano, BA
 Coordinator

Murray State University
 240 Wells Hall
 Murray, KY 42701
 (877) 70HEART



Dedicated to the empowerment and encouragement of foster and adoptive families.

What the KY Foster/ Adoptive Care Association Offers Families

- Development of a unified voice for more effective advocacy of children in out-of-home care.
- Working in partnership with DCBS to develop and provide training for foster/adoptive parents and agency staff.
- Increase public awareness through recruitment and retention of foster/adoptive parents.

Contact Information
Judy Gulley
 President

KY Foster/Adoptive Care Assoc.
 150 Wild Turkey
 Morehead, Ky 40351
 (606)783-0946

<http://www.angelfire.com/ky3/kfaca/kychildren.html>



Frequently Asked Question

Fostering or Adoption through
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

What are the requirements for becoming a foster or adoptive parent?

- ❖ Be financially stable, that is, able to meet the needs of your family
- ❖ Be at least 21 years old
- ❖ Be single, married, widowed, or divorced
- ❖ Be physically, mentally healthy
- ❖ Successfully complete 30 hours of training and all paperwork to help you make an informed decision about whether fostering or adoption is appropriate for you and your family.

The program is free, and you are not obligated to become a foster or adoptive parent because you attend the program.

How long does it take to foster or adopt?

The training, evaluation, and approval process normally takes four to six months. The amount of time until a family receives a child depends on whether you are fostering or adopting and how flexible you are about the type of child you wish to parent. Foster parents may receive a child shortly after they are approved. Adoptive placements generally take longer because the move to an adoptive home must be planned and gradual so both the child and the family have time to adjust.

Is information about the child's background available?

Many foster care placements are done on an emergency basis so, initially, staff often know very little about the child. When it becomes available, all information will be shared with you.

Is there any way I can see the children who are available for adoption?

Yes, children available for adoption may be seen on these Web sites:

- ❖ <http://chfs.ky.gov/> gives information on the foster care and adoption process as well as Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP)
- ❖ <https://apps.chfs.ky.gov/snap/> provides a search engine to find kids based on specific criteria and also photo listings of all Kentucky's waiting kids.
- ❖ <http://www.wednesdayschild.com> provides a link to the SNAP photo listings.
- ❖ <http://www.wsaz.com/carrieskids> provides interviews with the kids done by WSAZ.



Foster Care and Adoption

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Foster Care and Adoption Programs

When children have been abuse or neglected and must be separated from their parents or other relatives, they are most often placed in the temporary and safe care of approved foster parents. Foster parents have been trained to help children through frightening and traumatic events in their lives.

While children are in temporary foster care, the main goal of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) is, as quickly as possible, find permanent homes where the children can be safe, secure, and healthy in mind, body, and spirit. In some cases, that might be back with their birth parents after the parents have received counseling and other services. In other case, however, the courts may terminate the birth parents' rights and free children for adoption.

Adoption is the legal process of making a family of parents and children not born to them. In many cases, foster parents choose to become the permanent and legal adoptive parents of children who have been in their foster care. A temporary situation (foster care) then becomes a step forward to a permanent and lifelong commitment (adoption).

Why Do Children need Foster Care and Adoption Services?

Most children in foster care come from homes in which they were beaten, degraded, or molested. Many were ignored and starved. There are many reasons:

- ⌘ Some birth parents simply aren't able to give appropriate physical and emotional care or appropriate supervision.
- ⌘ Some parents and some children can't control their behaviors.
- ⌘ Some families have temporary crises, like health problems or loss of income and housing, when their children need foster care.
- ⌘ Some parents have serious parenting problems because of drug abuse, mental illness, or other conditions.
- ⌘ Some birth parents voluntarily place their children for adoption.

How Many Kentucky Kids Need Services?

According to the numbers, more than 6,000 children are in CHFS foster care now. Last year, more than 500 children in CHFS foster care were adopted – and more than 75% were adopted by their foster families.

But those are just numbers. In terms of broken spirits and countless tears, the need is immense.

Will I be able to adopt the child I'm fostering?

Most children who are placed in foster care return home to their birth families. If a foster child should become free for adoption, you will be considered if it is in the best interest of the child.

What services are available after a child is placed in my home?

CFHS's Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) office's offers supportive services including foster/adoptive parent mentors, counseling, and referrals. Support groups, such as the Kentucky Foster/Adoptive Care Association, are valuable resources as well. New families are always welcome.

How much does fostering or adopting cost?

CFHS does not charge for its services. Foster parents are reimbursed for the cost of caring for a child placed with them. CFHS is also responsible for the foster child's medical expenses. More assistance may be available for children with special needs, depending on the severity of their needs. Adoptive families may qualify for financial assistance for finalizing the adoption in court and to meet the child's ongoing special needs.

What if I want to sit down and talk to someone about fostering or adoption?

That's easy. Just check the enclosed letter and call the recruitment contact number in the region where you live. You can speak to a Recruitment and Certification (R&C) worker, who will set up an appointment for an information session in your home.

Is there any general meeting I could attend to get a better understanding of the process?

Yes, each region holds regular information meetings that last about an hour. If a list of those meetings was not included in your packet, call the R&C supervisor at the recruitment contact number in the region you live in and ask for meeting dates.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA) is a nonprofit public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the adoptions of more than 150,000 children in North America's foster care systems waiting to be adopted.

Wendy's founder Dave Thomas, who was adopted as a child, created the foundation which works closely with adoption program staff from each state to streamline the adoption process and make adoption more affordable for families.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids is a signature DTFA program. The program combines fundraising by Wendy's and its customers with aggressive grant management of the foundation. The talent of experienced adoption recruiters helps to move children from foster care into permanent, loving adoptive homes.

Wendy's restaurants, their customers and other partners raise funds for DTFA. The foundation awards grants to local adoption organizations to hire recruiters to execute recruitment.

Kentucky has secured two grants from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. These grants fund two (2) Child Specific Recruiter positions. They carry a caseload of SNAP kids from their respective service regions and their main task is to recruit adoptive families for those children. The recruiters are based in Louisville (Jefferson Region) and Lexington (Southern Bluegrass Region).



A Signature Program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
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1-800-ASK-DTFA
www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Nine Steps

to becoming a foster/adoptive family



1. Call 1-800-232-KIDS

or your local Department for Community Based Services office.

2. Share your information with DCBS staff

- Tell us about your family.
- Why do you want to foster or adopt?
- How did you hear about us?

3. Receive Mailing

Explore foster or adoptive parent material

4. Attend two-hour informational meeting.

- Receive in-depth information
- Ask questions, get answers
- Begin paperwork

5. Attend Training

- Begin 30 hour pre-service training (10 classes)
 - Complete paperwork, with staff help.
 - Complete home consultations.

6. Begin family application process

- Complete application
- Complete home visits

7. Become approved.

You will receive a certification letter when you are approved as a foster/adoptive parent.

8. Welcome children!

- Children are placed depending on their needs
- Receive peer support from experienced parents.

9. Receive Continuing benefits:

- Ongoing training
- Medical card for child
- Child care assistance, if qualified
- Child counseling services
 - Respite care
 - Tuition assistance
- Foster/adoptive mentors

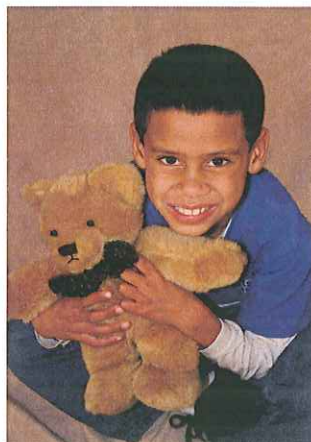


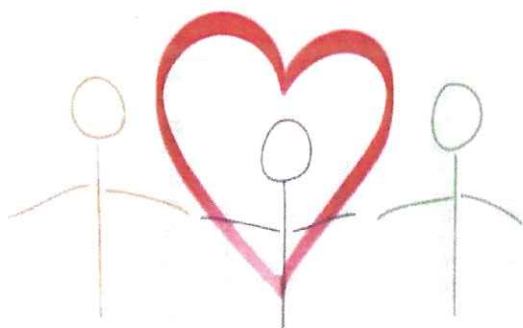
Volunteer Opportunities

with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Government agencies alone can't ensure the safety and security of children. It takes all of us to keep Kentucky's kids safe, secure, and healthy. Below are some ways that you can get involved to keep kids safe. For more information contact your R&C office in the region you live.

- ⌘ Consider becoming a foster parent. It's not easy, but the rewards are great when you help a child learn what it feels like to be safe.
- ⌘ Consider adopting an abused or neglected child.
- ⌘ If you think a child is being neglected, sexually abused, physically, or emotionally abused call 1-800-752-6200 or 877-KYSAFE1 or your local law enforcement agency. *Children are hardly ever abused only once.* If you suspect it, you must report it—that's the law.
- ⌘ Arrange for a speaker on preventing child abuse and neglect to come to your PTA, church, club, or workplace. Just call your local DCBS office.
- ⌘ Teach others about child abuse and neglect, because the more we all know about it, the more we can do to stop it.
- ⌘ Reach out to neighbors or relatives with children. Help them. Listen to them. Be a good example to them.
- ⌘ Help a pregnant teenager learn parenting skills.
- ⌘ Volunteer your time in a child crisis shelter, drug abuse prevention or treatment program, or shelter for the homeless.
- ⌘ Collect diapers, clothing, toys, books, and formula for children who have been removed from their homes.
- ⌘ Provide "housewarming gifts" for 18-year old foster children who are moving out on their own.





Please complete the application, submit a check made payable to **For Jamie's Sake** in the amount of \$25.00 and send application and fee to:

For Jamie's Sake.
Foster and Adoption Resource
Center, Inc.

Attn: Pat Ross
1544 Winchester Ave.
Suite 808
Ashland, KY 41101
606-327-5511



In the unfortunate event the 900 applications are not received all monies collected will be returned to you. We ask that you include on your application your work, home, and cell numbers in the event we need to contact you.

The funds generated for the creation and renewal of the license plate will directly benefit efforts of family recruitment and activities for children in SNAP. (Special Needs Adoption Program)

Please see the attached design of the license plate and application. With your help we can make it happen.

God is with us and has led us this far, but we need help from you to continue this journey. *'Anything is possible if a person believes.'* Mark 9:23

For the children,
Lea Ann Gollibue

For Jamie's Sake
"A Forever Family for Every Child."



Dear Friends,

Did you know that there are over 500 children in Kentucky who are available for adoption due to no fault of their own? The adoption license plate will not only create awareness for the children waiting on what should fundamentally be theirs, a forever family, but for the cause of adoption in general.

Can you think of a better time than now to kick off the first ever adoption license plate in Kentucky? To make the license plate available, we need 900 participants to fill out applications and submit the fee to us before the license plates can ever be created.

Please complete the application, submit a check made payable to **For Jamie's Sake** in the amount of \$25.00 and send both application and fee to:

For Jamie's Sake. Attn: Pat Ross,
544 Winchester Ave. Suite 808
Ashland, KY 41101

Application for Special License Plate



Please Print or Type:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **County:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Pursuant to KRS 186.164

Must be a non profit organization and in compliance with the parameters of the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

I am applying for the following special license plate: _____

Application must be submitted to (point of contact person):

_____ **Pat Ross** _____

Name of organization: _____ **For Jamie's Sake** _____

Address: _____ **1544 Winchester Ave. Suite 808** _____

City: _____ **Ashland** _____ **State:** _____ **KY** _____ **Zip:** _____ **41101** _____

Each application must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$25.00 made payable to the Sponsoring Organization.

Additional voluntary donations for special plates, over and above the cost of the plate may be made at the County Clerk's office. \$ _____

At least 900 applications for a particular plate shall be received within one year or the plate will not be produced.

This application will be accepted at any time.

Original - Organization

Copy - Customer